

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

PIADC HARBOR REPAIRS

I. INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by STV Incorporated for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and documents a site specific analysis of activities supported by Federal funds, on land owned ARS. This project will provide PIADC with an improved harbor and repair or replace harbor structures. The EA includes a site specific discussion of: the purpose and need for action, location, description of the proposed alternatives, the preferred alternative, background of the project site, environmental consequences of each alternative, and mitigating measures for environmental impacts.

The decisions to be made are whether or not to repair PIADC harbor and if so, whether potentially significant impacts exist that would require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for this project. The scope of these decisions pertain only to the proposed activities supported by or related to the use of Federal funds at PIADC.

The EA examines two alternatives:

1. **No Action**

The No Action alternative includes making no changes to PIADC harbor. The existing state of the harbor further deteriorate and eventually lead to an inoperable harbor.

2. **Harbor Repairs**

This alternative consists of six potential components of repairing the PIADC harbor, described on pages 3-3 to 3-4.

II. ISSUES

The issues relevant to the proposed project are presented in the EA on pages 4-1 to 4-3.

III. DECISION

The effects of the alternatives were analyzed and based on this analysis Alternative 2 has been selected as the preferred alternative.

IV. RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The selected alternative is to repair the PIADC harbor. This alternative will meet all regulatory requirements and will ensure the long term stability and usefulness of the PIADC harbor. The limited negative impacts will be temporary in nature. The construction activities will occur within the PIADC harbor that is already used for these purposes. The short term impacts which may affect the local environment consist of disturbances to terrestrial ecology, and potential interference with nesting birds during construction. These impacts can be minimized by preventive construction techniques. The project will be carried out under the requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NYSDEC permits.

V. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As the Area Administrative Officer, North Atlantic Area, and delegated responsible decision maker under 7 CFR Part 520 - Procedures for Implementing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), I conclude that the proposed project PIADC harbor repairs, will have no significant impact on the environment. After careful consideration of the issues relevant to this project and based on the site specific environmental analysis documented in this EA, I have determined that implementing this decision in the manner described will not cause significant environmental impacts or adverse effects. Therefore an environmental impact statement is not needed.

John A. Crew
Area Administrative Officer

Date